

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 were pending in the present application. Claims 10-16 are allowed. The present response amends claim 6, leaving pending in the application claims 1-16.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Claims 10-16 are allowed.

II. Objections to the Claims

Claim 6 is objected to as not ending with a period, and has been amended to include a period. Claims 4, 5, and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 5, and 7 depend from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance due to the filing of a terminal disclaimer as discussed below. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claims 4-7 be withdrawn.

III. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6, and 8-9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,136 B2. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, a timely-filed disclaimer is filed herewith in order to expedite the issuance of the pending claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome.

IV. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter to the specification.

V. Conclusion

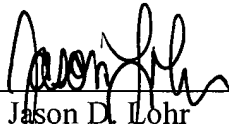
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. TWI-30730. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed August 24, 2004, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

STALLMAN & POLLOCK LLP

Dated: November 2, 2004

By: 
Jason D. Lohr
Reg. No. 48,163

Attorneys for Applicant(s)